IT CAN'T BE
NO WAY
THAT'S NOT-

PANT
PANT
PANT
HURRY UP! GET MOVING!
NOW!
GET INSIDE!
#20

MAKI-CHAN! KIKUCHI'S GETTING ATTACKED BY SOMEONE WITH MAGIC ON THE ROOF...!!
THE CHALKBOARD HAS ANOTHER MESSAGE TOO...
OOTOMO AND THE OTHERS JUST WENT TO GO HELP HIM...
WHY KIKUCHI!? WHO WOULD!?
I SHOULD LET HIM KNOW TOO...
PANT
PANT
IT'S ABE AND WATANABE ...!
HEY...
PANT
HUFF
AH
...OH RIGHT, NANAURA'S PROBABLY ON THE FIELD FOR PRACTICE!

PANT
OH, WHOA... RIGHT NOW WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF A MARATHON OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL
NANAURA --?
PANT
HAVEN'T SEEN HIM
MAYBE HE'S STILL RUNNING
MAKI-SAN
WHAT'S UP-?
SORRY FOR BUGGING YOU DURING PRACTICE ...
WHERE'S NANAURA?

PANT
PANT
I SEE ...
THANKS
IT CAN'T BE HELPED
I SHOULD HURRY AND GET TO EVERYONE ...

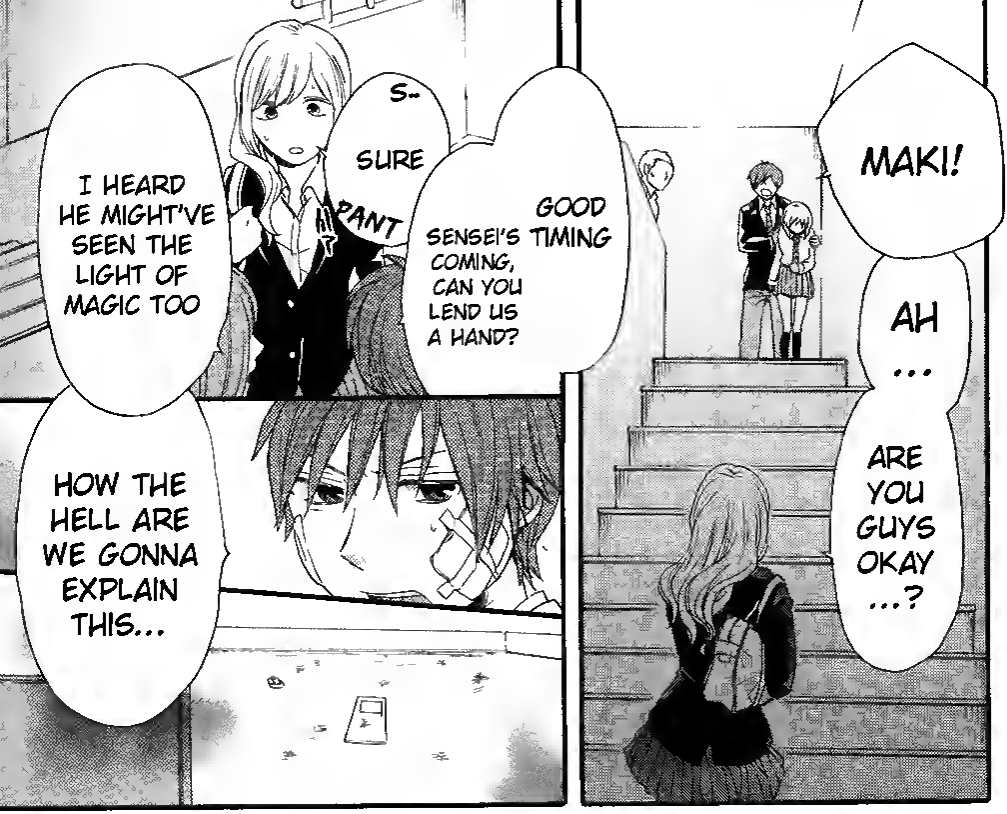
MINAMI
HURRY!
THE ATTACKS STOPPED ...
WHY DID YOU KEEP QUIET...
ABOUT BEING THE PRINCESS!?
TO PROTECT MYSELF
IN EVERY SENSE OF THE WORD

EVERYONE!
MINAMI!
YOU GUYS OKAY!?
IF I THINK ABOUT IT
THERE'S ALWAYS KNIGHTS STICKING AROUND HIM
DID EVERYONE KNOW...?
MIDOU ...
THAT'S RIGHT...
HUFF
PANT
THEN HOW COME YOU DIDN'T TELL ME
BECAUSE YOUR PLANS CLASHED WITH MINE
AND WE ALWAYS WOUND UP BUTTING HEADS!
BECAUSE I HAVE
SO MANY THINGS I WANT TO PROTECT HERE, OOTOMO!
THAT'S WHY!

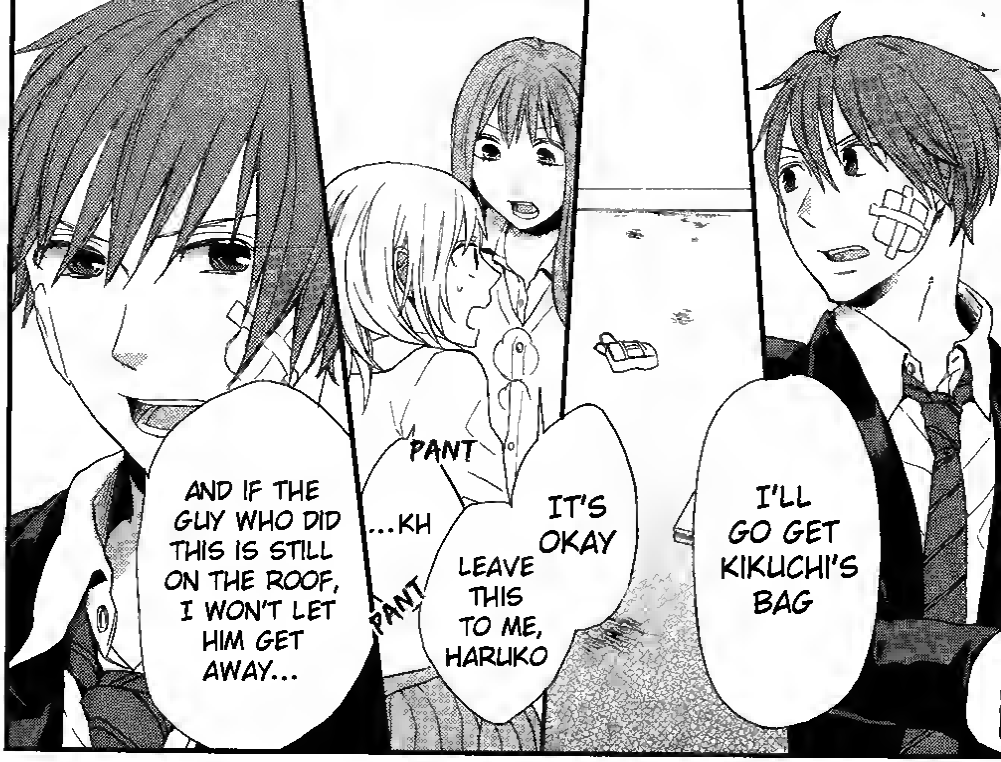
I DIDN'T HAVE THE TIME...
...TO LOSE MYSELF IN THOSE KINDS OF THOUGHTS
BECAUSE CARLO
HAD ALWAYS BEEN
A VERY IMPORTANT PERSON TO ME!
A UFO ...?
NO...

DIDN'T SOME-THING ...
FLASH JUST NOW?
!!
YUU
THIS IS BAD... THIS IS BAD...!
送信中へ
THAT'S NOT THE PROBLEM HERE!
AREN'T YOU TOO OLD FOR THAT KIND OF STUFF?
NO WAY~ YOU ACTUALLY BELIEVE IN UFOS, SENSEI?
I'LL GO CHECK IT OUT REAL QUICK
NOPE, SOMETHING DID FLASH!
SERIOUSLY~? YOU SURE YOU'RE NOT JUST IMAGINING THINGS?
WHAT'S UP?
--- EH!?

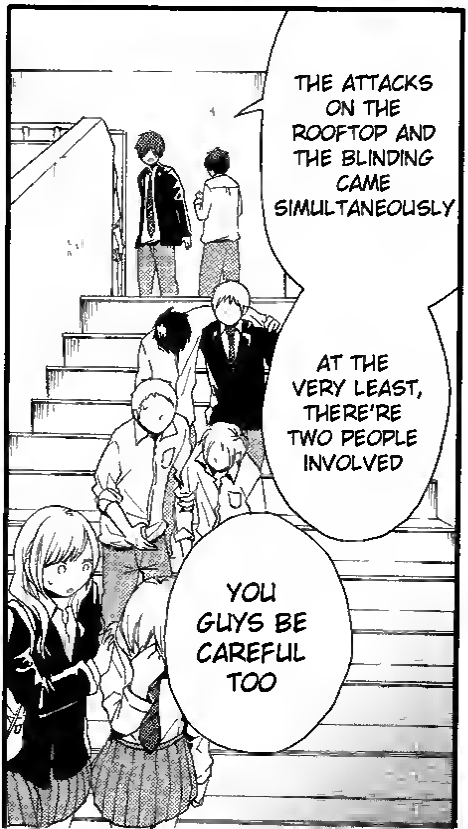
THIS IS BAD! SENSEI'S COMING!
!
WE NEED TO GET AWAY FROM HERE FAST
LET'S HAVE
!
A HEART-TO-HEART LATER ON WHAT'S HAPPENED UP 'TIL NOW
TAP
TAP
TAP
CRAP ...
AH


MAKI!
AH...
ARE YOU GUYS OKAY...?
GOOD TIMING
SENSEI'S COMING, CAN YOU LEND US A HAND?
S-
SURE
PANT
I HEARD HE MIGHT'VE SEEN THE LIGHT OF MAGIC TOO
HOW THE HELL ARE WE GONNA EXPLAIN THIS...

YOU GUYS SAW A FLASH OF LIGHT NEAR THE MOUNTAIN, RIGHT?
IT WAS LIKE— A FIREWORK, YOU KNOW?
...HOW ABOUT FIRE-WORKS?
WE COULD LEAVE SOME USED FIREWORKS AROUND AFTER-WARDS OR SOME-THING
...THAT'S IT!
ALRIGHT
GOOD
GET GOING EVERYONE


I'LL GO GET KIKUCHI'S BAG
IT'S OKAY LEAVE THIS TO ME, HARUKO
PANT
...KH
PANT
AND IF THE GUY WHO DID THIS IS STILL ON THE ROOF, I WON'T LET HIM GET AWAY...

MEGURO, YOU STILL UP FOR IT?
I'M STILL GOOD
.....


THE ATTACKS ON THE ROOFTOP AND THE BLINDING CAME SIMULTANEOUSLY
AT THE VERY LEAST, THERE'RE TWO PEOPLE INVOLVED
YOU GUYS BE CAREFUL TOO

.....
THERE'S NO ONE AROUND
...OR ANY ATTACKS BEING FIRED...
THEY PURPOSELY CALLED KIKUCHI OUT...
AND LED US TO GO "LOOK AT THE ROOF"
...WHAT WERE THEY TRYING TO DO ...?

...
HUH
YOU GUYS ...
AH
SENSEI
AHH!?
THE DOOR!?
IT WAS ALREADY LIKE THIS WHEN WE CAME...
...
WHAT'S THIS
THE GROUND'S BURNT...
?
DID YOU GUYS SEE SOMETHING FLASH?
YEAH
THAT'S WHY WE CAME TO LOOK
WE SAW AND...
CROSSED PATHS WITH ABOUT 3 GUYS...? RUNNING AWAY FROM HERE
ARE YOU SERIOUS!?

WERE THEY FIRST YEARS?
I HAVE NO IDEA
HMM... WHAT IN THE WORLD WERE THEY DOING, JEEZ...
WHETHER IT'S THE EARTH-QUAKE OR THE LAND-SLIDE
YOU ALWAYS SEEM TO BE NEARBY
...I WONDER WHAT IT IS
IT'S BAD LUCK!
OH, HEY THERE
SO SOME-THING WAS THERE AFTER ALL?
WELLL, I'M PRETTY LOST ON WHAT HAPPENED UP THERE
YOU SAW THE FLASH OF LIGHT TOO?
I MIGHT ASK YOU IN DETAIL LATER ABOUT THE 3 GUYS YOU CROSSED PATHS WITH
GOTCHA
KEEP ME POSTED
HMM?
SENSEI —
IS THIS THE ONLY WAY TO GET ONTO THE ROOF?
LIM

HUH!?
IF I REMEMBER RIGHT
YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET TO IT FROM THE EQUIPMENT ROOM BELOW US
BUT I THINK IT'S LOCKED
.....
ALRIGHT
IT'S ALREADY LATE, SO YOU GUYS SHOULD GO HOME
I'LL HEAD TO THE STAFF ROOM
.....
...WHAT ARE THEY UP TO?
I HAVE NO EVIDENCE THAT THEY'RE UP TO ANYTHING
AND I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THEY'RE DOING AT ALL, BUT...
JUST WHAT ARE THE KIDS IN MY CLASS... CAUGHT UP IN?
...NOT GOOD

COURSE MATERIALS
PANT
PANT
IF SENSEI GETS ANYMORE SUSPICIOUS THAN THIS ...
AT THIS RATE-
DAMN ...
.....
...?
OOTOMO'S BEEN ACTING STRANGE FOR A WHILE NOW...
I'LL GO BUY SOME FIREWORKS FROM THE CONVENIENCE STORE
THE FASTER THE BETTER, RIGHT?
YEAH
PLEASE DO! AND BE CAREFUL!

MINAMI AND THE OTHERS...
IF THE GUY WHO DID THIS IS STILL ON THE ROOF, I WON'T LET HIM GET AWAY...
...I WONDER IF THEY'RE OKAY?
.....
...HUH
WAIT A MINUTE
HOLD ON...
THERE'S ONE MORE WAY
TO GET ONTO THE ROOF
THIS WAY

BUT
BUT WAIT
I'D BETTER TELL EVERYONE
THE ONE WHO KNOWS ABOUT THAT ENTRANCE IS
OVER HERE
BUT
...BUT
NO, THAT DOESN'T MEAN A THING.
THERE'RE... ORDINARY PEOPLE ASIDE FROM NANAURA WHO KNOW ABOUT IT TOO

PANT
PANT
GU
HAAH
SUPPLY ROOM
... HEY
WHEEZE
... IF IT ISN'T MAKI
WHEEZE
WHEEZE
I HEARD YOU WERE IN THE MIDDLE OF A MARATHON, BUT
HAAH
YEAH ...
J... JUST NOW ...
HM? OH...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? ...

JUST NOW
KIKUCHI WAS ATTACKED ON THE ROOF
AND MINAMI AND THE OTHERS SAVED HIM
I WAS WAITING FOR THE BUS, BUT I RUSHED TO GET BACK HERE
DID YOU
DID YOU SEE ANYONE SUSPICIOUS AROUND OR..
.....
...DID YOU
... HM?

TAP
TAP
TAP
IS THE EQUIPMENT ROOM OVER HERE?
……
器材室
--AH …
PEOPLE ARE—
ハァ ハァ
CLICK
SIGH
…IT WAS ME

ATTACKED KIKUCHI
I
HERE ...?
I THINK SO

IT'S OPEN ...
THERE'S STAIRS ...
NOW I SEE. IT LEADS ABOVE, HUH
THESE VOICES ... HARUSUMI ...
AND... HIROKI ?
TAKAO?
IF THE CULPRIT WAS ON THE ROOF TOO, THEN
DID THEY GET IN AND OUT FROM HERE...?
THEY PROBABLY RAN ALREADY ...
EQUIPMENT ROOM
WHO WASN'T THERE AT THE TIME ...?
HINATA ...
ICHINOSE HINATA
ENOMOTO-SAN
OOKI-SAN

YAMADA MITSUKI ...
... AND HINO ...
YUUNA ...
MAKI YUUNA
AND NANAURA
...ALL OF THEM
ARE SUSPECTS.
.....

SORRY
.....
HAAH
...KH
.....
GUESS THEY'RE GONE...
.....KH
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS
YOU
JUST WHAT ...
IT WASN'T MY IDEA
I'M JUST FOLLOWING ORDERS
FOLLOWING ...
IT CAN'T BE
VERONICA-SAMA'S ...!?

... HAHA
NO, NOT THE PRINCESS'S
THEN WHOSE!?
I CAN'T... SAY WHOSE FOR NOW
グイ
SAME CAN BE SAID FOR WHO THAT PERSON IS
HERE
AND WAS IN THE PAST
.....
...THAT CHALKBOARD MESSAGE
"VERONICA, I WANT TO SEE YOU" WAS...
RIGHT, OUR DOING
THERE'S ANOTHER MESSAGE ON THE CHALKBOARD TOO...
...IF THE INCIDENT THIS TIME IS YOUR... LOT'S... DOING, THEN

...ARE THEY LOOKING FOR THE PRINCESS?
IS IT PRINCE EUGENE? GLEN SCHREIBER? ... OR LUCAS?
.....
...I HAVE
A REQUEST TO GIVE YOU
FROM MY MASTER
ガッ

TRYING TO REMEMBER NEW MAGIC OR ENHANCING YOUR FORCES
ON YOUR OWN LIKE THIS IS A BOTHER.
COULD YOU CALL IT QUITS?
...YOU THINK I'D LISTEN TO WHAT HE TELLS ME TO DO?
YOU'LL LISTEN
IF NOT, ARE YOU OKAY WITH HAVING THE CHALKBOARD MESSAGE,
AND TODAY'S INCIDENT
BECOME YOUR DOING?

HAAH ...?
IT'S PRETTY EASY TO MAKE STUFF UP
.....
UNFORTUN-ATELY FOR YOU
I WASN'T INSIDE THE SCHOOL THEN

I SPOKE WITH ABE AND WATANABE
...AT THE SOCCER FIELD. SO I HAVE AN ALIBI.
WHAT IF I TOLD YOU THOSE GUYS WORK FOR ME?
N...
NO WAY
BECAUSE, THOSE TWO HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THE PAST ...
IF I TOLD YOU THEY WERE JUST PRETEND-ING NOT TO?
OH, AND
WHAT IF I TOLD YOU OOKI WAS... ON OUR SIDE... AS WELL?

DON'T YOU HAVE ANY ALLIES, MAKI?
Y...
YOU'RE JUST BLUFFING! ABOUT EVERYTHING!
LET GO OF ME
... AL- LIES
MAKI YUUNA
NANAURA

THE ALLIES
I HAVE ARE...
THE MINUTE
HARUSUMI'S GROUP
ACTS EVEN A BIT OFF, I'LL CHARGE RIGHT IN
--ARE ALL SUSPECTS.
.....
... MAKI
YOU JUST HAVE TO KEEP QUIET
IF YOU DO THAT, THEN...

NOTHING BAD'LL HAPPEN TO YOU, BECAUSE
.....
I'M THE ONLY ONE
SHUT UP
...I'M GUESSING YOU LAUGHED AT EVERYTHING I SAID WITH THOSE FRIENDS OF YOURS
!
THAT'S NOT TRUE
AAH
WAIT, CALM DOWN
... WHAT ARE YOU AFTER ...
IT'S NOT UP TO ME TO TELL YOU

...YOU'RE PRETTY LOYAL TO THIS GUY
THE FACT THAT YOU'RE A SQUIRE OF ZERESTRIA'S NO DOUBT A LIE AS WELL
NO ... THAT'S
REALLY ... TRUE
HMPH
WELL ...
I DON'T CARE ABOUT THAT, BUT
...I GET IT
I JUST HAVE TO KEEP QUIET, RIGHT?
!
... THAT'S A SMART CHOICE
CAN I... BORROW YOUR CELL PHONE REAL QUICK?
AH?
SURE ...

EH

キャ!
バーン
……
…DON'T YOU EVER COME NEAR ME AGAIN!!

BECAUSE
I'M THE ONLY ONE
WHO'S ON
YOUR SIDE
...OR SOMETHING
AAAAH
SO LAME
I'M GLAD I DIDN'T SAY THAT...
I'M SORRY
MAKI

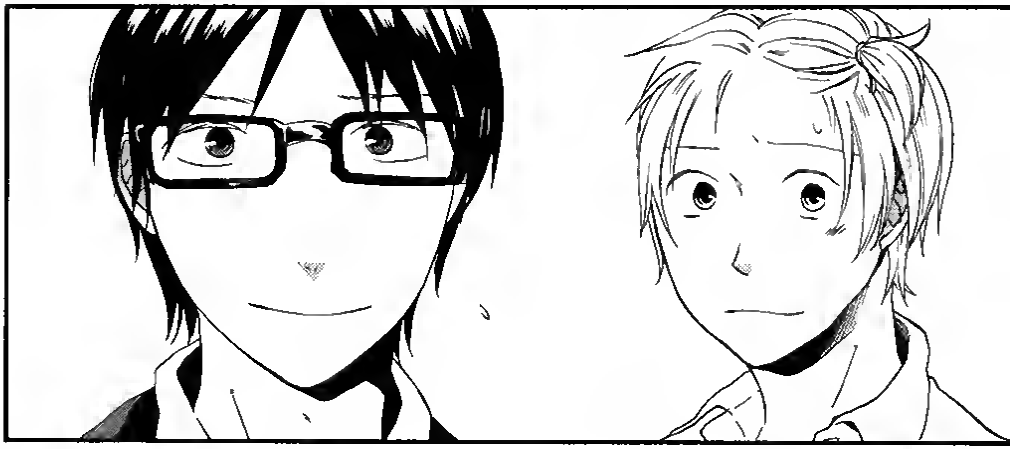
THAT PERSON
I HAD NO CHOICE
I HAVE TO OBEY, BECAUSE
YES, THIS IS KARAOKE SEVEN
MM-HMM
YE... AH, MINAMI?
A RESERVATION, IS IT? THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATRONAGE
GOT IT—
HUH
YOU OKAY WITH NOT HAVING A BIG ROOM, MAN?
... EVERY-ONE'S KINDA EXHAUST-ED...
.....

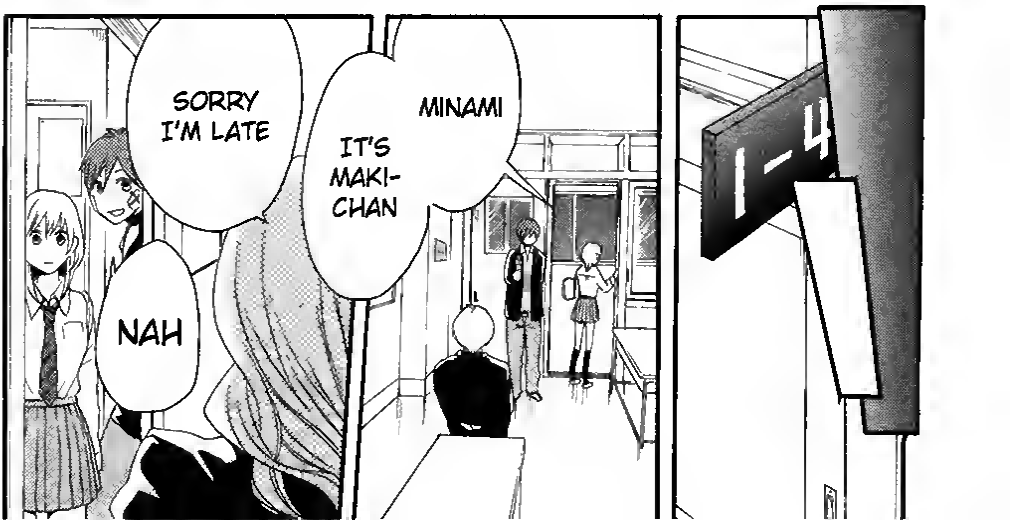
HARUKO, FEELING ANY BETTER?
I'M SORRY ...
FOR WHAT?
DON'T APOLOGIZE
SO, I'M SORRY
AND... BECAUSE I HAD NO STAMINA, I RAN OUT OF GAS FASTER THAN I THOUGHT I WOULD...
I TRIED USING MAGIC LIKE HOW RIDA DID IN THE PAST
視聴覚室
I'LL FILL YOU IN LATER ...
YEAH
ALRIGHT, THANKS...
LATER

AHH
STAMINA ...
BE CAREFUL NEXT TIME, ALRIGHT?
... OKAY
TAKE BETTER CARE OF YOURSELF
.....
SHE'S NOT ANSWERING ME AGAIN
ガラ
MINAMI

THE KNIGHTS AND THE CHURCH ARE THINKING OF SENDING
THE PEOPLE WHO CAN'T FIGHT HOME... JUST IN CASE
THAT'S A GOOD IDEA
IT SEEMS LIKE EVERYONE WHO SAW THAT BATTLE WITH MAGIC BACK THERE
SUDDENLY REMEMBERED BITS AND PIECES FROM THE WAR
SAME WITH ME THOUGH
PROBABLY BECAUSE IT LOOKED JUST LIKE IT DID BACK THEN
I FEEL LIKE SHIT

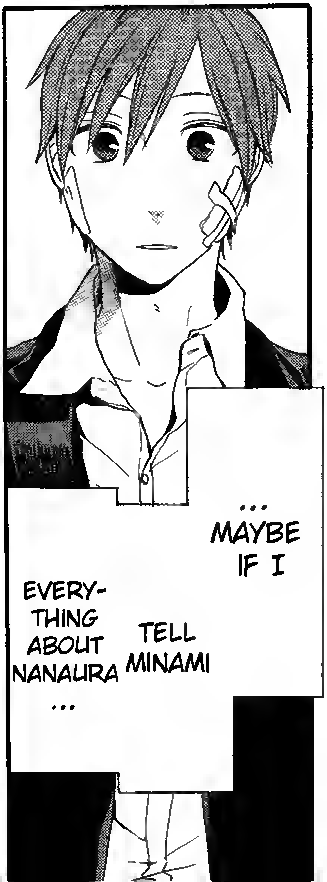
NISHINA
MINAMI ...
DON'T WORRY ABOUT... THE TEXT SENT TO KIKUCHI
YOU WEREN'T THE ONE AT FAULT
KIKUCHI'S FINE TOO...
AND I'LL TRACK DOWN THE PERSON RESPONSIBLE SO

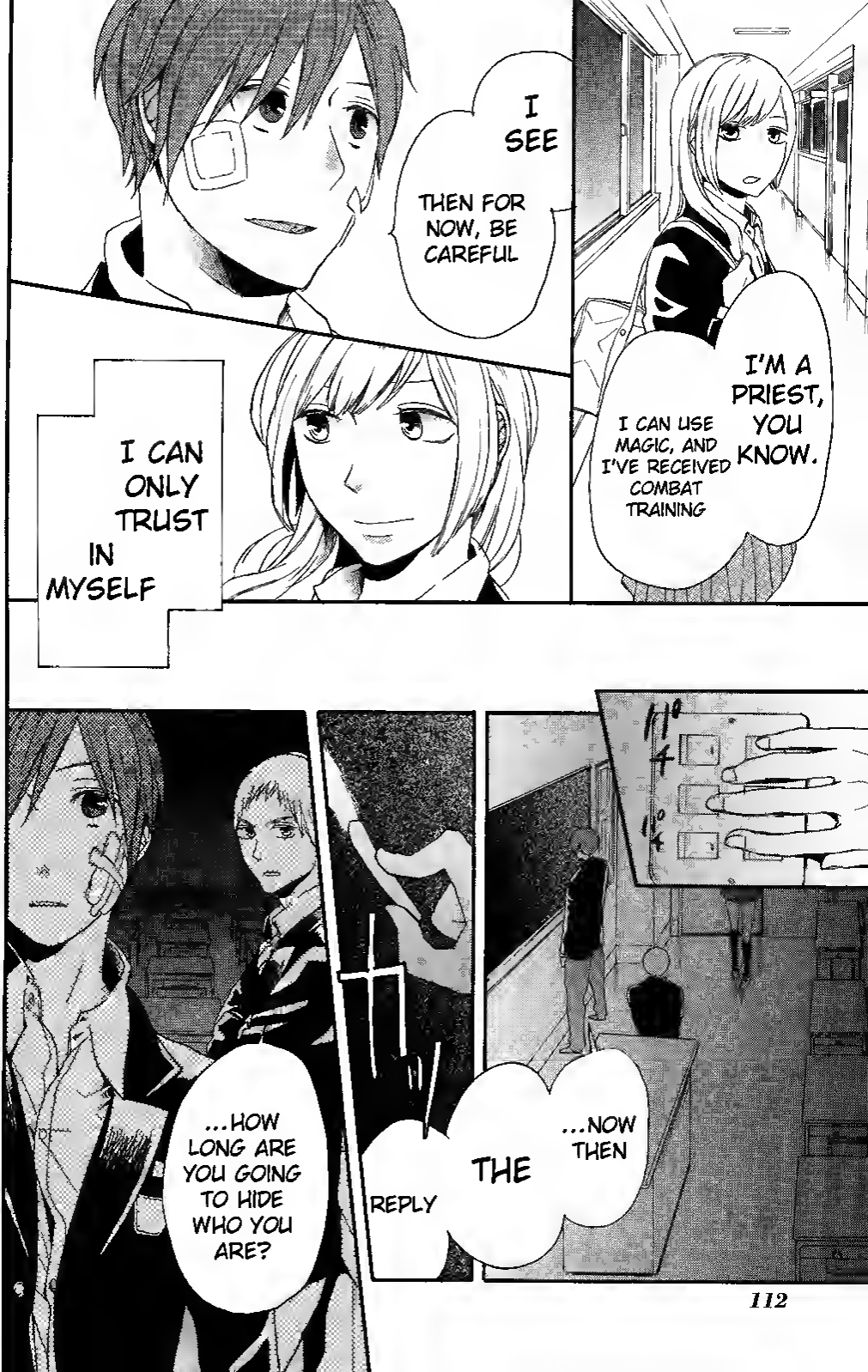



1-4
MINAMI
IT'S MAKI-CHAN
SORRY I'M LATE
NAH

MAKI
THEN ...
WILL YOU BE OKAY BY YOURSELF?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN ...
SOMETHING LIKE THAT JUST HAPPENED AND ALL
I BOUGHT FIRE-WORKS ...
AND A LIGHTER
THANKS!

...I CAN'T
I'M... NOT SURE IF OOTOMO HAS TIES WITH NANAURA OR NOT
DO YOU HAVE ANY ALLIES, MAKI?
...I'LL BE FINE


... MAYBE IF I TELL MINAMI EVERY-THING ABOUT NANAURA ...


I SEE
THEN FOR NOW, BE CAREFUL
I'M A PRIEST, YOU KNOW.
I CAN USE MAGIC, AND I'VE RECEIVED COMBAT TRAINING
I CAN ONLY TRUST IN MYSELF
...NOW THEN
THE REPLY
...HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO HIDE WHO YOU ARE?

BECAUSE I COULDN'T EVEN TELL KIKUCHI PROPERLY
...FIRST I NEED TO GO AHEAD AND REVEAL MYSELF TO EVERYONE IN ZERESTRIA
MINAMI'S THE PRINCESS ...
SORRY... MY HEAD'S A MESS
WHAT SHOULD I SAY...
...ONCE AGAIN
ALRIGHT
"IF, AS BEFORE —"

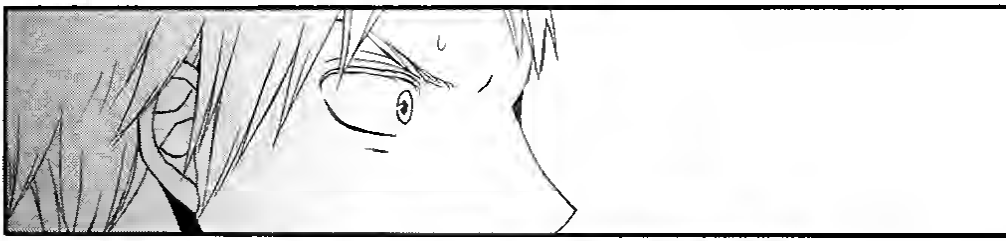
SO HE MEANS HE'LL BE BEATING THEM TO DEATH...
"THERE IS BLOOD-SHED, THEN"
"YOUR LIFE AND SOUL'S REINCAR-NATION WILL BE CRUSHED"
"IDENTIFY YOUR-SELF"
"AND LET US DISCUSS THIS"
"VERONICA"

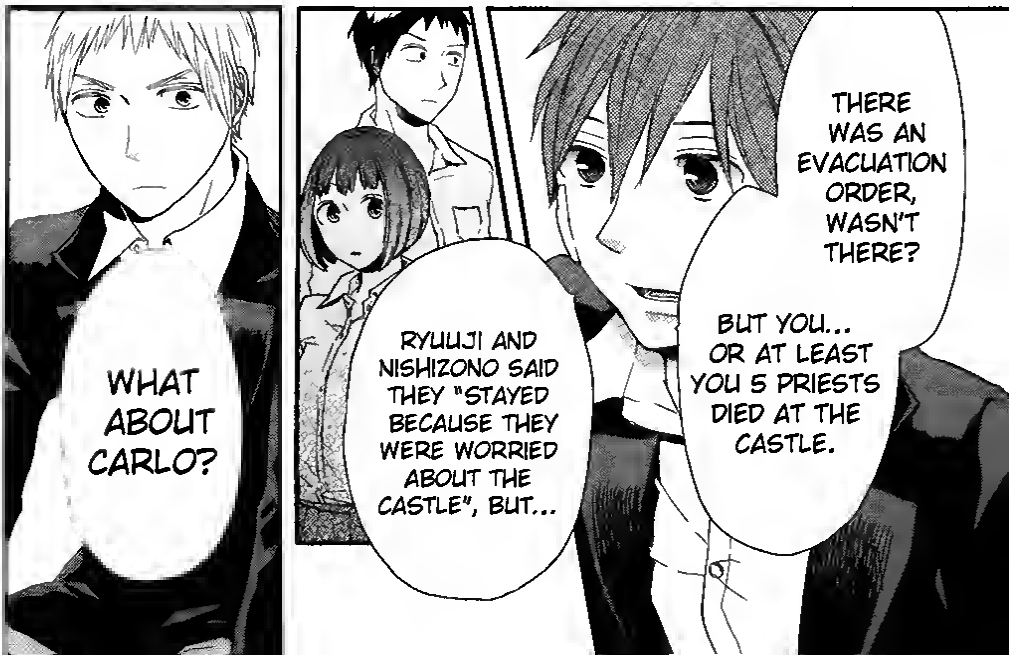
SIMPLE IS FINE.
IT'S BETTER IF WE HAVE THEM THINK
"THE IDIOT HAS FOOLISHLY SHOWN HERSELF"
カラオケ

WHAAAT
YOU HATE IT WHEN I DON'T GET TO THE POINT, DON'T YOU?
ISN'T IT TOO SIMPLE?

201
NOW
THEN
.....
...FRANKLY SPEAKING, IT'S JUST SO YOU
DON'T GET CAUGHT UP IN THE MOMENT AND GO ALL OUT LIKE YOU DID ON THE ROOF...
I'D APPRECIATE IT IF YOU COULD COOL DOWN
I'LL STAND GUARD IN THE CORRIDOR, SO
NAH, IT'S FINE! STAY, HARUKO
THAT WAY WE'LL BE ABLE TO KEEP CALM ABOUT THIS
.....
THEN, OOTOMO. MY MAIN QUESTION IS

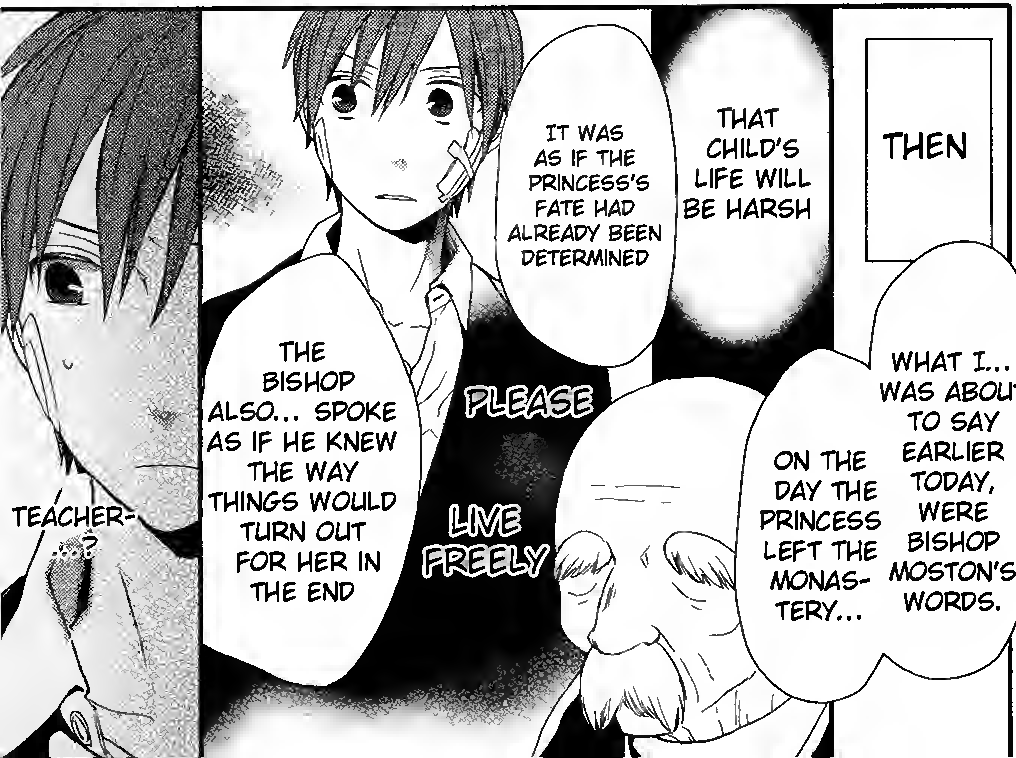
WHY DID CARLO DIE AT THE CASTLE?




WHAT ABOUT CARLO?
RYUUJI AND NISHIZONO SAID THEY "STAYED BECAUSE THEY WERE WORRIED ABOUT THE CASTLE", BUT...
BUT YOU... OR AT LEAST YOU 5 PRIESTS DIED AT THE CASTLE.
THERE WAS AN EVACUATION ORDER, WASN'T THERE?

DID I STAY AT THE CASTLE TO HELP THE PRINCESS?

NO!
...
THERE IS NO WAY THAT I'D HAVE GIVEN PRIORITY TO MY PERSONAL FEELINGS
.....
...
HMM


THEN
WHAT I... WAS ABOUT TO SAY EARLIER TODAY, WERE BISHOP MOSTON'S WORDS.
ON THE DAY THE PRINCESS LEFT THE MONAS-TERY...
THAT CHILD'S LIFE WILL BE HARSH
IT WAS AS IF THE PRINCESS'S FATE HAD ALREADY BEEN DETERMINED
PLEASE
LIVE FREELY
THE BISHOP ALSO... SPOKE AS IF HE KNEW THE WAY THINGS WOULD TURN OUT FOR HER IN THE END
TEACHER-
...?

KNOCK KNOCK
SORRY FOR INTRUUUDI ...
OH... WE GOT A PRETTY HEAVY MOOD GOING ON...
YOU KNEW WHO MINAMI WAS TOO, DIDN'T YOU?
AH YEAH
PLEASE DON'T LET IT GET TO YOU

ゴ
……
... I CAN'T REMEMBER THE MAJORITY OF THE WAR EITHER
THE ONLY REASON I CAN THINK OF FOR ME BEING PRESENT AT THE CASTLE IS,
IF THE CHURCH WAS ACCOMPLICE
TO MOSWICK'S ATTACK ON ZERESTRIA, THEN

I WAS A PART OF THE FORCE THAT ATTACKED
--IS WHAT I'D ASSUME
LET'S
...
REMEM-
BER
!
EVERYONE WHO WITNESSED THAT BATTLE WITH MAGIC ...
WERE GETTING THEIR MEMORIES BACK

DELIBERATELY DRAG THOSE MEMORIES OUT...
.....
LET'S
WOULDN'T WE BE ABLE TO MOVE ON...?
I JUST WANT TO KNOW THE TRUTH ...!
IF WE LEARN THAT THEN...
WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO, ZEZE?
OF COURSE WE WON'T FORCE ANYONE TO, BUT
AGREED.
EHH
EH ...
SERIOUSLY? SERIOUSLY?

Bokura No Kiseki

Chapter 20

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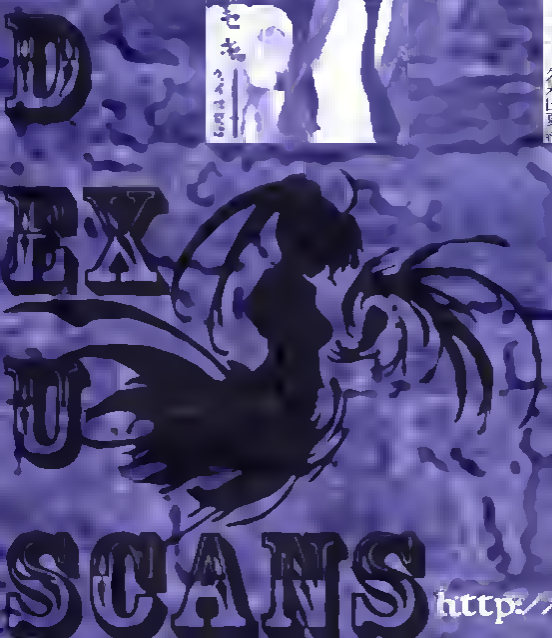

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